

**Presentation to: Austin City Council**  
**Date: July 28, 2011**

#107  
**Late Backup**

**Parking Extended Hours**  
**Effect on St. Mary Cathedral Activities**

There is one aspect of the proposed extended hours parking downtown that affects many citizens in a way not identified to date - the effects of the new parking rules on the activities and parishioners of St. Mary Cathedral located at 10<sup>th</sup> and Brazos Streets.

My credentials: I have been a parishioner of the Cathedral parish for over thirty years, active both as an individual and for eleven years as the Cathedral secretary now retired.

**St. Mary Cathedral does not go dormant during the days or the evenings!**

**The spiritual business of the Cathedral parish is in effect 24/7 as evidenced by the throngs in attendance on a regular basis.**

Placing the Cathedral within the boundaries for parking extended hours, weekday evenings and Saturdays, **will adversely affect regularly scheduled Saturday activities**, both within the Cathedral and within the adjacent Bishops Hall, including:

- Weddings (several)
- Baptisms (English and Spanish)
- Retreats (Men, Women, Organizations, etc.)
- New Member Dinner
- Vigil Mass (5:30 pm)
- Special services such as Easter Vigil Mass / Christmas Vigil Mass / Red Mass, attended by parishioners and other Catholics including governmental entities (local, county, state, judicial)
- Special services involving Ordinations and/or similar occasions

Additionally, on weekdays – **Monday through Friday, in the evening, regularly scheduled activities include:**

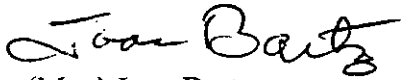
- Scripture Study
- Cathedral School meetings
- Choir / Organ practices
- Wedding rehearsals
- Special topic classes

There is no reason why the attendees at the Cathedral, or any other so affected place of worship, should be asked to pay \$1.00 per pay station so that the nightlife on 6<sup>th</sup> street and other like areas downtown can be used as COA cash cows at the expense of restricting unabridged access to downtown places of spiritual worship, day or night.

Why was 10<sup>th</sup> Street included in the boundaries for this extended parking project? The city council should consider dropping the boundary further south.

Where the Downtown Alliance was in all this planning needs explaining. From past experience, it is obvious that if an entity downtown does not exist for the purpose of economic development and its attendant increase in business related profits (private and governmental), the Alliance considers such an entity, especially churches, completely expendable and unimportant, - at best to be tolerated and at worst to be ignored. Foolish premise!

These data have been provided to you by me as an individual Cathedral parishioner. I have provided these data to the Rector of the Cathedral and other individual citizens also deeply concerned about the possibility of lay infringement on the needs of our spiritual community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joan Bartz".

(Mrs.) Joan Bartz  
Parishioner / Citizen / Taxpayer / Voter